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Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

Comment On: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0001
Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Notice for the Public Review of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay

Document: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0600
Comment submitted by G. W. Herrala

Submitter Information

General Comment

New York's farm communities in the Bay watershed have serious concerns that U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 (USEPA R3) has not accurately accounted for all pollutant reduction factors which are distinct and unique to New York. Unlike other Bay watershed states, New York's small portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed is characterized by low population growth, low intensity agriculture, forest and high water quality. This is significant because the brunt of any nutrient load allocation requirement will fall squarely on our small family farms in the Bay watershed region in the absence of any other significant industry or population centers to satisfy USEPA R3 pollutant reduction targets.

Since 2004, the NYS DEC, in partnership with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, has been implementing a practical, programmatic, state-wide approach to nutrient and sediment reduction which has resulted in marked improvements to the Susquehanna River Basin region and, thereby, the Chesapeake Bay watershed. These existing state water quality and agricultural environmental management programs have established practices and standards which exceed federal minimum requirements and pre-date any EPA mandate.

For these reasons, please revise New York's Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocation to a realistic and adopt the model refinements recommended by NYS DEC in their Draft Phase I Watershed Implementation Plan.

Sincerely,

Gerard W. Herrala